

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 107 – 112 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The channel of the front shoe member is shaped and sized to receive the foremost wheels of an inline skate and has a blocking means disposed at the front of said channel to engage the front wheel. The blocking means extends upwardly from said channel at least 27.5 degrees above the horizontal plane of the axes of the skate wheels and is concavely curved so as to generally conform to the curvature, i. e., circumference, of the front wheel of the inline skate.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 124 – 140, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In one embodiment of the invention, where the shoe is utilized with an ~~in-line~~ inline skate which has no rear brake or where there is sufficient clearance between the rear skate wheel and the brake assembly, the blocking means of the rear shoe portion will also extend upwardly from the wheel-receiving channel at least 27.5 degrees above the horizontal plane of the axes of the skate wheels when inserted in said channel. In this situation the expandable shoe is securely attached and maintains the skate in a generally upright position for storage or walking. In those instances where the ~~in-line~~ inline skate has a rear brake assembly which does not provide sufficient clearance for rear blocking means extending 27.5 degrees above the skate wheel axes, the rear blocking means will be shortened and it may be necessary to utilize a strap to secure the rear shoe portion to the ~~in-line~~ inline skate. This can be accomplished utilizing a flexible elastic strap attached to the left and right sidewalls of the rear shoe portion and which forms a loop which can be stretched over the rear brake assembly. Alternatively, a first strap connected to one of the sidewalls of the rear shoe portion, a second strap attached to the opposite side wall and a means for connecting said first and second straps and adjusting for a secure fit when one of the straps is looped over the brake assembly can be utilized. When straps are utilized, they are attached to the rear shoe portion.

Please replace the paragraph at lines 216-246 on page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Base member 10 can be utilized as the front shoe portion 11 and rear shoe portion 12 of an expandable shoe as illustrated in FIG. 2a. This type of shoe would be suitable for use with ~~in-line~~ inline skates having no rear brake assembly. The front blocking means 51 and rear blocking means 52 could be identically constructed or different but in either case blocking means 51 and 52 would extend upwardly from the wheel-receiving channel at least 27.5 degrees above the horizontal plane of the axes of the ~~in-line~~ inline skate wheels. Flexible bridge 60 as illustrated is a molded elastomeric elongated o-shaped piece; however, other designs can be utilized for this purpose. Whereas flexible bridge 60 has two extensible (stretchable) rail members 61, constructions having fewer or more stretchable rail members can be employed. An identical flexible bridge which is not shown in FIG. 2a would be positioned and attached on the backside of the expandable shoe. The only requirement is that the extensible rail members have sufficient elasticity so that, under tension, front shoe portion 11 and rear portion 12 are pulled toward each other so that blocking means 51 disposed at the front of shoe portion 11 and blocking means 52 disposed at rear of the rear shoe portion 12 engage and bear against the front and rear wheels, respectively, of an ~~in-line~~ inline skate inserted therein with sufficient force so as to provide secure attachment of the shoe to the inline skate. Whereas flexible bridge member 60 may be integrally molded, i.e., formed as a unit with the front and rear shoe portions as will be described in greater detail to follow, constructions as depicted in FIG. 2a having front and rear shoe portions 11 and 12, attached using a flexible bridge which is separately molded and attached to the outside walls 25 of the respective shoe portions provide the ability to vary the expandable shoe components. For example, should flexible bridge member 60 fail as a result of heavy or improper usage, it could be replaced with a new piece. Also, if the user were to purchase new skates with a different wheel spacing, longer or shorter, different flexible bridge members could be installed to accommodate the new wheel spacing and insure proper fit and securing of the shoe onto the new skates. In addition to allowing for exchange of the flexible bridge member, a user would also be able to change a shoe portion. For example, if the shoe was originally

fitted for a skate with no brake assembly, the user could adapt the shoe for use with an inline skate having a brake assembly by exchanging rear portion 12 with one having a shorter blocking means, and, if necessary to achieve secure attachment, a securing means.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, lines 268 – 291, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 3 shows an expandable shoe 9 produced as a unit by such an overmolding procedure and suitable for use with an ~~in-line~~ inline skate having no brake assembly. The expandable shoe 9 comprises a front shoe portion 11 and a rear shoe portion 12 and flexible bridge 60. Front shoe portion 11 has a front blocking means 51 and ground-contacting bottom surface 20. As shown in FIG. 4 front shoe portion 11 has a front wheel receiving channel 41 and opposing side walls 30. Front blocking means 51 disposed at the front of receiving channel 41 extends upwardly from said channel and is concavely curved to generally conform to the curvature of the front wheel of an ~~in-line~~ inline skate. Rear shoe portion 12 has opposing side walls 30 extending upwardly so as to define a rear wheel-receiving channel 42. Rear blocking means 52 disposed at the rear of receiving channel 42 extends upwardly from said channel and is concavely curved to generally conform to the rear wheel of and ~~in-line~~ inline skate. Extensible substantially parallel elongate rail member 61 connect front shoe portion 11 and rear shoe portion 12 and maintains said front and rear shoe portions in substantial alignment with a gap therebetween. Extensible rail members 61 are outside the vertical planes of opposing side walls 30 so as not to interfere with the skate wheels when placed in wheel-receiving channels 41 and 42. Extensible rail members 61 have sufficient elasticity so that when under tension, front shoe portion 11 and rear shoe portion 12 are pulled toward each other so that front blocking means 51 and rear blocking means 52 engage and bear against the respective front and rear wheels of an ~~in-line~~ inline skate inserted in expandable shoe 9. The ground- contacting bottom surface 20 of front shoe portion 11 and rear shoe portion 12 may extend beyond the outside walls 25 in order to provide additional stability for walking and storage. As shown in FIG. 5 a tread design may be molded into ground-contacting bottom surface 20.

Please replace the paragraphs bridging pages 10 and 11, lines 295 – 319, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

In FIGS. 2a, 2b, 3, 4 and 5 are depicted adjustable shoes for use with ~~in-line~~ inline skates having no rear brake assembly or where the rear brake assembly is of such a design that there is sufficient clearance for the rear blocking means to pass between the wheel and the brake. Adjustable shoes of this type are typically attached to the ~~in-line~~ inline skate by the wearer placing the front or rear wheel of the skate in the wheel-receiving channel against the respective blocking means and pressing the foot downward. The shoe will expand and snap around the front and rear skate wheels for secure attachment thereto.

FIG. 7 shows an adjustable shoe similar to those depicted in FIGS. 3-6 except that the rear shoe portion 12 has been modified to accommodate use on ~~in-line~~ inline skates having a rear brake assembly which prevents insertion of the rear wheels of an in-line skate into the receiving channel of a rear shoe portion when the rear blocking means which extends upwardly from said channel 27.5 degrees or more above the horizontal plane of the axes of the skate wheels. In this instance the rear blocking means is shortened and a securing means attached to the side walls of the rear shoe portion. The securing means may be a loop of flexible elastic material or straps with connecting means such as a buckle, loop and hook, VELCRO® hook and loop fastener or the like. The straps are typically made of non-elastic material such as leather, plastic or fabric. Ends of securing means are attached by suitable means to the rear half of the opposing side walls of the rear shoe portion.

FIG. 7 ~~shows~~ shows an adjustable shoe 8 suitable for attachment to an ~~in-line~~ inline skate with a rear brake assembly having front and rear shoe portions 11 and 12, front blocking means 51, flexible bridge 60, ground-contacting bottom surface 20, modified rear blocking means 53 and securing means 28 consisting of a loop of elastic material.

Other modifications of the design and construction of the expandable ~~in-line~~ inline skate shoes are within the spirit of the invention and scope of the following claims.